

In the Claims:

**Please cancel claims 30 and 31 without prejudice.**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer and hedging to guarantee a future exchange of currency using said exchange rate, wherein said hedging is performed with at least one of an option or a forward contract;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price according to said exchange rate, such that the buyer receives information concerning said final price before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed for a predetermined period of time, and is hedged; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment;

wherein at least said receiving said payment from the buyer, said converting said payment and said paying the vendor are hedged, such that a risk of a change in said exchange rate is hedged.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer includes receiving payment from an account of the buyer in a financial institution, such that said financial institution does not perform said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the seller has a Web site and the buyer purchases the product through said Web site to form an e-commerce transaction.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises:

receiving said exchange rate at said Web site;

converting the price according to said exchange rate to form

said final price;

constructing a Web page including said final price; and

displaying said Web page to the buyer.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

providing a plurality of currency accounts, each currency account having a different type of currency; and transferring an amount of said payment from a currency account containing the local currency of the buyer to a currency account containing the local currency of the vendor to form said converted payment.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said transferring an amount of said payment is performed for a plurality of payments from the buyer to the vendor, such that a plurality of converted payments are formed.

8. (canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes determining a plurality of exchange rates, each of said plurality of exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time, wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises converting the price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality of separate points in time, each payment being converted according to one of said plurality of exchange rates, such that said receiving payment from the buyer is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor purchases a plurality of products from a plurality of suppliers, each supplier being paid in a separate local currency of said supplier, and wherein the vendor sells said plurality of products to a plurality of buyers, each buyer paying in a separate local currency of said buyer, such that said determining an exchange rate includes determining a first exchange rate for paying said supplier by the vendor and determining a second exchange rate for paying the vendor by said buyer, each of said first and said second exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining an exchange rate further comprises:  
receiving said exchange rate from a FOREX market rate; and  
transmitting said exchange rate to the vendor.

14. (canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said converting the price further comprises automatically detecting the preferred currency of the buyer.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said converting the price further comprises automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer and said paying the vendor with said converted payment are performed through a trustee, such that said trustee receives payment from the buyer and gives payment to the vendor.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said trustee receives payment for the vendor on a settlement date.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment further comprises:

aggregating payments from a plurality of buyers;

exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market,

to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor; and

transferring said payment to the vendor from said funds in the

local currency of the vendor on said settlement date.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining an exchange rate includes adjusting said exchange rate according to a transaction fee, for performing said exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market, to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving payment from the buyer is performed by a third party payment clearance mechanism to receive payment from the buyer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein a plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms are available for receiving payment from the buyer, such that the vendor selects one of said plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms for said receiving payment from the buyer.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for performing online hedging at a Web site for a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the

vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

hedging said payment transaction by a hedging enabler process,

said hedging enabler process communicating only with

the vendor;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to

the local currency of the vendor to form a converted

payment according to said exchange rate; and

paying the vendor with said converted payment.

24. (canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein payment from the buyer to the vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance service, wherein a risk to said third party payment clearance service is also hedged by said hedging enabler process.

26. (canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein payment from the buyer to the vendor is handled by a third party payment clearance service, wherein a risk to said third party payment clearance service is also hedged by said hedging enabler process.

28. (canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local

currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the

vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to

the local currency of the vendor to form a converted

payment according to said exchange rate, wherein said

exchange rate is guaranteed at a time of calculating said

final price for the buyer, such that the price in the local

currency of the vendor is guaranteed and such that the

price in the local currency of the buyer is guaranteed;

and

paying the vendor with said converted payment;

wherein hedging is performed for the period from said determining said

exchange rate to said paying the vendor such that a risk of a change in said exchange rate is hedged and wherein said hedging is performed with at least one of an option or a forward contract.



30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor with a plurality of payments, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising:

determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the

vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

converting the price of the product from the local currency of

the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a

final price according to said exchange rate, such that the

buyer receives information concerning said final price

before a payment transaction is performed;

receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform

said payment transaction;

converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local

currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate,

wherein said converting the price of the product further comprises converting the

price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality

of separate points in time, each payment being converted according to said exchange

rate and each payment being hedged separately, such that said receiving payment from

the buyer is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer; and

paying the vendor with each converted payment;

wherein hedging is performed for the period from said determining said exchange rate to said paying the vendor for each converted payment such that a risk of a change in said exchange rate is hedged.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said hedging is performed with at least one of an option or a forward contract.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said exchange rate comprises automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the buyer communicates with the vendor through a Web page and a Web server, and said automatic detection is performed through at least one of DNS lookup information or cookies.